

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528-0001

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

There are reports of Mexican military personnel, or those posing as Mexican military personnel, illegally crossing the southern border into the United States. On January 15, the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin reported that according to a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) document, since 1996, Mexican military personnel or their imposters illegally entered our country 216 times, including 75 instances in California. These incidents represent a threat to our national security, and raise serious concerns about our current border protection practices and our ability to provide for the safety of our Border Patrol agents. The House recently passed important border control legislation that mandates operational control of our borders. If we hope to achieve this goal, this matter must be fully investigated.

Given the critical importance of border and national security, we respectfully request that you provide the documents reported by the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, explain how these incidents occur, and outline DHS' current policies to address these illegal crossings and your strategy for preventing similar acts in the future.

Sincerely,


David Dreier


Duncan Hunter